

REMARKS

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 14 because of the following informalities. The Examiner argued that the claim language is confusing. The Examiner indicated that on page 18, beginning with line 21, the Applicant states "...said gas vapor sensor is mounted proximate to said gas vapor sensor in a..." The Examiner suggested that such language is confusing. The Examiner stated that the Applicant wanted to somehow give the relationship of the gas sensor relative to the water heater, but that it is not established with the current claim language.

Further, in the same page, same claim, line 24, the Examiner indicated that the Applicant states "automatically shuts an ignition device..." The Examiner believes that a word such as "off" or "down" needs to be placed in between the words "shuts" and "an". The Examiner indicated that appropriate correction is required.

Applicant has therefore amended claim 14 to correct the deficiencies noted above. Applicant believes that claim 14 is now in condition for allowance.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 are allowed. The Examiner also objected to claims 15-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 15-20 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has therefore amended claim 14 to incorporate the features of both claims 15-20, which were previously dependent upon claim 14. Claim 15, for example, did not depend from any intervening claims, but depended directly from

claim 14. Similarly, claim 16 was not dependent upon any intervening claims but depended directly from claim 14. Thus, the Examiner objected to claims 15-16 as being dependent upon the rejected base claim 14. Applicant believes that because claims 15-16 has been rewritten (via amendments to claims 14) in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim 14, that claim 14 is now as rewritten is now allowable. Therefore, because claims 14 is now allowable, any dependent claims thereof (i.e., claims 17-19) should also be allowed.

The Examiner provided a statement of reasons for the indication of the allowable subject matter. The Examiner stated that a vapor sensor with a substrate containing the sensing element, vapor filter and housing retaining the substrate with a cover with a hole in the cover formed through which vapors may pass, in combination with all other limitations of claim 1, and the method of making such a sensor, are not disclosed nor deemed obvious in view of the prior art of record. The Examiner further indicated that the prior art does not describe a sensor that is structured in a fashion as the present sensor.

The Examiner therefore indicated that the application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: Making changes to clarify claim 14 as outlined above. Applicants have complied with this requirement as indicated by the claims amendments presented herein.

V. Conclusion

The Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly disclose the invention claimed thereof. It is believed that such amendments do not constitute new matter, but are rather clarifying in nature. Additionally, it is believed that support for such amendments is provided within the specification, including the drawings and claims, and that the specification adequately enables such amendments.

In view of the foregoing discussion, the Applicants have responded to each and every rejection of the Official Action, and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the below-indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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